

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

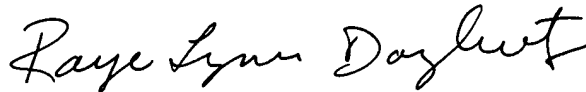
The Examiner has indicated that the application encompasses two groups of inventions, namely Group I (Claims 1-24) drawn to a latch assembly and pawl and Group II (Claims 25-36) drawn to a latch assembly, ratchet and plural pivot point control element. Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group 1, Claims 1-24, without traverse.

As requested by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office action, Claims 1-24 are generally drawn to the embodiments shown and described with respect to Figures 17-34. However, the scope of Claims 1-24 is not limited to the specific embodiments shown in Figures 17-34.

As also requested by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office action, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that a single control element is being positively claimed. Various dependent claims are drawn to plural control elements. Applicants have not amended Claim 25 as requested by the Examiner, because Claims 25-36 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of Claims 1-24 on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



Raye L. Daugherty  
Reg. No. 47,933

Docket No. 087801-9004-01  
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP  
100 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108  
(414) 271-6560